

## Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 AID-20 EA-11 EUR-25 ( ISO ) W

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R 041034Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1835

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0620

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT MASS ET SO

SUBJ: SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

1. SRC MEMBER MOHAMED SHEIKH OMAR IN MAY 4 CONVERSATION WITH ME REITERATED GSDR POLICY OF NOT RPT NOT "TAKING ANY ADVANTAGE" OF CURRENT ETHIOPIAN DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID GSDR HAD GIVEN STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS ARMED FORCES AND TO ITS INFORMATION MEDIA TO AVOID ALL PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES. GSDR FELT ETHIOPIA'S PROBLEMS WERE RESULT OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS BUILDING UP OVER LONG PERIOD OF TIME. THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAD THEIR OWN MOMENTUM. GSDR DIBNNOT RPT NOT WANT TO GET INTO THE MIDDLE. MOHAMED SHEIKH SAID HE FEARED THAT ANY NEW ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE LESS LIKELY THAN EMPEROR TO COMPROMISE WITH SOMALIA. THERE IS NO HOPE FOR PROGRESS WITHIN OAU OR ELSEWHERE AT PRESENT TIME FOR ENDALKATCHEW GOVERNMENT IS "PROVISIONAL" AND WEAK AND COULD NOT AFFORD TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS. PROSPECT THUS IS FOR CONTINUING ARMS RACE. BEST WAY TO AVOID THIS WOULD BE FOR US TO CONVINCE IEG TO ACCOMMODATE SOMALI CLAIMS AT LEAST IN SUBSTANTIAL PART. I SAID THIS HARDLY FEASIBLE AND HE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS TO BE TRUE AT PRESENT.

2. ETHIOPIAN DCM TOLD ME LAST NIGHT ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS NO INDICATIONS THE SOMALIS HAVE BEEN ACTING IN PROVOCATIVE

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FASHION ON BORDER. ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IS STILL OF OPINION SOMALIS

ARE NOT RPT NOT PLANNING EARLY MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ETHIOPIA.

3. DURING PAST TWO WEEKS REQUESTS BY PAKISTANI AND WEST GERMAN AMBASSADORS TO TRAVEL IN NORTH HAVE BEEN DENIED AND FOUR PAKISTANI EXPERTS STATIONED IN NORTH HAVE BEEN SENT BACK TO MOGADISCIO SOMEWHAT EARLIER. CHINESE HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO CONFINE THEIR TRAVEL IN NORTH TO HARGEISA AND SITE OF CHINESE ROAD (WHICH RUNS PARALLEL AND CLOSE TO ETHIOPIAN BORDER). THE CURRENT SPECULATION IS THAT THESE UNUSUAL TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ARE DUE TO: SOMALI TROOP ACTIVITIES IN NORTH - WHETHER FOR DEFENSIVE OR OFFENSIVE PURPOSES; SOMALI RELUCTANCE ALLOW FOREIGNERS TO SEE DROUGHT CONDITIONS WHICH QUITE BAD IN SOME PLACES; FACT SECURITY SERVICE OVEREXTENDED AS IT PREPARED FOR OAU SUMMIT AND DOES NOT RPT NOT WISH ADD BURDEN OF DIPLOMATIC TRIPS; AND/OR NEW SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY IN BERBERA AREA. MOTIVATION MAY WELL BE COMBINATION OF SEVERAL OF THESE FACTORS, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOTHING TO CONFIRM LAST (CHINESE) HYPOTHESIS. OUR JUDGMENT REMAINS THAT SOMALI MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAINST ETHIOPIA IS UNLIKELY.

KIRK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, BORDER INCIDENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TRAVEL CONTROLS, RAILROADS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974MOGADI00620  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740108-0406  
**From:** MOGADISCIO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740573/aaaacoe.tel  
**Line Count:** 81  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, MASS, ET, SO, CH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005